

# newsletter 3

## CONTENTS

- Premises
- Personnel
- New Members
- Library/Documentation
- Publications
- 1976 Meetings
- Training:
  - Course on Architectural Conservation
  - Course on the Conservation of Mural Paintings
  - Course on the Fundamental Principles of Conservation
  - Autumn Course: Security, Climatisation and Lighting in Museums
  - Museum Conservation Scholarships
- Regional Activities:
  - Africa
  - Middle East
  - Latin America
  - North America/Europe
  - Asia: Activities of the Centre's Regional Office in Asia
- Technical Assistance provided by the Centre for member countries and UNESCO
- Research
  - Collaboration with ICOM
  - "A National Conservation Institute Without Walls" by R. M. Ogden

## PREMISES

During 1975 the whole of the ground floor of the wing of the north courtyard of San Michele assigned to the Centre has been vacated, and thus it has been possible to begin to make use of it for the practical work of the Mural Paintings Course and the setting up of a permanent exhibition on the problems of climatization, lighting and security in museums.

The flooring of the whole basement area was renewed in 1975 by

the Superintendence of Monuments of Rome and Latium. This has put a further 390 m<sup>2</sup> at the Centre's disposition for the above mentioned activities.

## PERSONNEL

Mr. W. B. Morton III, architect, terminated his services at the Centre on 15 January, 1975. Mr. Morton had been detached to the Centre by the National Park Service of the United States in order to study the architectural problems posed by the installation of the Centre in San Michele and also to carry out technical assistance missions. He also helped with the teaching of the Architectural Conservation Course, especially in developing the part of the syllabus devoted to the study of materials.

The Centre has also appointed the following permanent consultants to ease the workload:

- Mr. L. J. Rollet-Andriane for public relations with Italian government authorities;
- Mr. P. Mora for teaching and technical assistance to member countries;
- Mrs. P. Rockwell for special documentation concerning needs and possibilities for the training of specialists;
- Mr. S. Lucarelli, for the photogrammetry section.

## NEW MEMBERS

Australia has officially adhered to the Centre on 26th June, 1975 and Guatemala on 18th September, 1975.

Ethiopia has announced its adhesion for the 1st January, 1976.

Since 1st January 1974 two institutes have been accepted as Associate Members of the Centre:

- The National Library of Australia, Canberra;
- The Institut für Denkmalpflege der DDR, East Berlin, German Democratic Republic.

## LIBRARY/DOCUMENTATION

### LIBRARY

One can easily summarize this section with the expression "All is well - nothing to report". But as everyone knows, serenity is the result of hard work and the peace of the Library is deceptive. Cultural property is becoming a fashionable subject and printed matter is forever increasing, which involves constant research work. We must learn not to overlook any information, to evaluate what is of interest, what is redundant, what is still at the experimental stage, etc., not forgetting the need to balance purchases in the various languages used by our lecturers. The Library knows how to search successfully for material but often finds difficulty in selecting works for purchase and classification. This selection cannot be made without the help of the competent persons and, for the scientific section, we must thank Mr. Torraca for all the invaluable advice which he frequently gives us. This year we have managed to review a good part of the inventory on subject matter and put things in a more logical order. On the other hand, this list being in French, in accordance with policy adopted since the creation of the Library, we hope to be able to translate it into English and German in order to help our lecturers in their research.

Among our other activities, there has been a regular increase in both the sale of the Centre's publications to our lecturers and students and the large photocopying service for which we are responsible.

Many things have still to be done and improved but we are not lacking in either time or goodwill.

### Documentation Activities

Where can I go for training? Variations on this question arrive at the Centre from all parts of the world. To help answer it, we have started a Card







Index on Training in the Conservation of Cultural Property. Cards on about 150 institutions or individuals were sent out to the people concerned, returned with corrections by a large majority, and entered in the Index. Each card has spaces for information on the material taught (architecture, museum objects, crafts, library materials, etc.), type and length of training, entrance requirements, application deadlines, place limitations, fees, scholarship sources, language, and the address of the institution. The listings range from basic training to advanced professional specialization.

Photocopies of the cards in a box, with an introductory booklet, are available to other conservation centres and schools at the price of \$8. Hopefully, this will give prospective students and their advisers a more complete and accessible picture of training possibilities than can be achieved through correspondence. However, a note of caution is in order: the Index is meant to be a source of basic, factual information and does not attempt to evaluate or recommend the courses listed. Given the variety and geographical distribution of the places involved, it would have been foolhardy and misleading to attempt any sort of rating.

We hope that those concerned with training will keep us informed so that the Index can be kept up to date and expanded as time goes on.

Training was also the subject of a questionnaire circulated to all the Member Countries and friends of the Centre in February and March of 1975. We inquired about what kinds of specialists were needed in each country and what type of training was required — in both architectural conservation and conservation of movable objects. The replies are now coming back and are being examined. This will be used in planning the long-term training program of the Centre in response to the needs expressed.

## PUBLICATIONS

The following works have been published since 1st January, 1975:

In the series *Technical Notes*:

**Giorgio Torraca**, "Solubility and Solvents for Conservation Problems", Rome, 1975;

**Tomislav Marasovic**, "Methodological Proceedings for the Protection and Revitalization of Historic Sites", Rome, 1975.

**Karl-Werner Bachmann**, "La conservation durant les expositions temporaires - Conservation during Temporary Exhibitions", Introduction, **Johannes Taubert**, bilingual edition French-English, Rome, 1975.

A new edition, revised and completed, of the book by **Pietro Gazzola**, "The Past in the Future", is being printed at the moment and will be published shortly, in the same series.

Separate series:

"Conservation in the Tropics", Proceedings of the Asia-Pacific Seminar on Conservation of Cultural Property, February 7-16, 1972, edited by **O.P. Agrawal**.

Finally, "Aesthetic and Social Dimensions of Historic Centres", by **William J. Murtagh** and "A Policy for the Preservation of Historic Centres", by **Giulio C. Argan** have been published together in a small booklet, in English and French, edited by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the American Committee of the International Centre. The texts were presented during the Seventh Session of the General Assembly.

## Note

The contributions presented during the plenary assembly of the *ICOM Committee for Conservation* (Venice, October 1975) are available at the International Centre for Conservation, Rome. The reports are collected in 3 volumes. Price: 50 \$ (shipment included).

"*Conservation Administration*, the proceedings of the Boston Athenaeum/New England Document Conservation Center 1973 Seminar on the theoretical aspects of the conservation of library and archival materials and the establishment of conservation programs, is available in spiral binding for \$12.00 per copy from the New England Document Conservation Center, 800 Massachusetts Avenue, North Andover, MA 01845. Unbound, unpunched copies of this volume are available for those who wish to hardbind this conservation reference volume. A few copies of *Library and Archives Conservation*, the proceedings of the 1971 conservation seminar are still available at \$10.00 per copy".

## 1976 MEETINGS

**Yazd (Iran)** - 6-11 March - Meeting organized by ICOMOS, on conservation of mud brick monuments - By invitation only.

**Morges (Switzerland)** - 19-21 May - Meeting of members of the UNESCO Secretariat and of representatives of ICOMOS, IUCN and the International Centre for Conservation on various problems which have arisen from the application of the International World Heritage Convention.

**Lübeck (Fed. Rep. of Germany)** - September 1976 - Meeting of specialists on conservation of polychrome sculptures in the Baltic Region, for discussion of the restoration of the Crucifix by Bernt Notke. Organized by the "Denkmalamt der Stadt Lübeck" and the International Centre for Conservation, with the financial support of the "Innenministerium" of the Fed. Rep. of Germany and the "Kultusministerium" of Schleswig-Holstein. Upon invitation only.

**Baghdad (Iraq)** - End of November - Regional conference on conservation of monuments. Organized by the International Centre for Conservation in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Conservation of Cultural Property in the Arab Countries. Upon invitation only.

## TRAINING

### Course on Architectural Conservation

During the 1973/74 academic year, the Course on Architectural Conservation organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture of Rome University under the scientific guidance of Professor G. De Angelis d'Ossat, was attended by 56 participants from 29 different countries. The course was held from 8 January to 15 June, 1974. Students were as follows:

AL-AHMADI Salah Baqi, Iraq  
ALAMI Yousef, Jordan  
BALASRUIYA Chandrika, Sri Lanka  
BARUCCI Clementina, Italy  
BIANCHI CANTISANO Ruben, Uruguay  
BOKHARI S. Muhharam Husaim, Bangladesh  
BORGHI Maria Gabriella, Italy  
BREGANT Giorgio, Italy  
BUNSE Jochen, Germany (Fed. Rep.)  
BWANADI Omar, Kenya  
CALCAGNILE Luigi, Italy  
CAMMARATA Antonio, Italy  
CANCELLIERI Stefania, Italy  
CHALTIN Jean-Louis, Belgium  
CHUCH Phoeurn, Khmer Rep.  
CIANCARELLI Luca, Italy  
D'AMATO GUERRIERI Claudio, Italy  
DERAGA Daria, U.S.A.  
DUMITRESCU BARTES Ioana, Romania  
FELDMAN Deborah, U.S.A.  
FEDELI BERNARDINI Franca, Italy  
FERNANDEZ Rodolfo, Mexico  
FRITZ Christel, Germany (Fed. Rep.)  
GEISENHOF Johannes, Germany  
GIUSBERTI Piero, Italy  
GUAITOLI Maurizio Italy  
HARO Erkki, Finland  
HECKER John, U.S.A.



IRIARTE GALLEGU Miguel, Mexico  
 JANSEN Michael, Germany  
 KARADAG Selahattin, Turkey  
 KILBRO Ann Katrin, Sweden  
 LOTTI Pierluigi, Italy  
 MANDADJIEV Ivan, Bulgaria  
 MARTINEZ ASUAGE Leoncio, Venezuela  
 MORI Giovanni, Italy  
 MURATORE Giorgio, Italy  
 NAKTONG Supachai, Thailand  
 PALADINO Giovanni, Italy  
 PARDO-LIO Vittorio, Italy  
 PARISI Elisabetta, Italy  
 PASTOR Teresa, Spain  
 PETRUCCI Paolo, Italy  
 PETRUCCIOLI Attilio, Italy  
 PILLAI Rosalba, Italy  
 PRIETO VICIOSO Esteban, Dominican Rep.  
 RIJAL Babu K., Nepal  
 SAKAMOTO Katsuhito, Japan  
 SHAAT Shawqui, Syria  
 SIDAOUI Mounir, Lebanon  
 STRKALJ Vinko, Yugoslavia  
 THIAM Alassane, Senegal  
 TUFANO Sandro, Italy  
 VALLINDRA Irene, Greece  
 WITTE Heribert, Austria  
 XYDA Maria, Greece

The teaching staff chosen by mutual consent of the Centre and the University, was made up of :

Alvisi Giovanna (Italy); Bonelli Renato (Italy); Bricchet Robert (France); Caniggia Gianfranco (Italy); Carbonnell Maurice (France); De Angelis d'Ossat Guglielmo (Italy); Di Geso Giovanni (Italy); Erder Cevat (Turkey); Faulkner Patrick (Great Britain); France-Lanord Albert (France); Garcia Gil Albert (Spain); Gazzola Pietro (Italy); Giacobini Clelia (Italy); Gilyard-Beer R. (Great Britain); Grassi Liliana (Italy); Lamboglia Nino (Italy); Linstrum Derek (Great Britain); Lilius Henrik (Finland); Mamillan Marc (France); Marasovic Tomislav (Yugoslavia); Monnet Bertrand (France); Mora Paolo and Mora Laura (Italy); Morton Woolridge B. III (USA); Mühlethaler Bruno (Switzerland); Philippot Paul (Belgium); Pontuale Luciano (Italy); Schultze Edgar (Germany); Thomson Garry (Great Britain); Torraca Giorgio (Italy); Worskett Roy (Great Britain); Zander Giuseppe (Italy).

Practical work involved five different types of problems :

— Historic Centres : Tivoli and Trogir in 1975. Surveys of the areas were made within the framework of historic and typological studies. The work was directed by Mr. G. Zander in Tivoli and Mr. T. Marasovic in Trogir.

— Individual Building : S. Caterina dei Funari in 1974 being part of

a programme of restoration work of the Superintendence for Monuments of Rome and Latium.

— Materials and Humidity : San Michele (1974), a study of wooden structures, floors, humidity and the adaptation of buildings to new usage, under the guidance of Mr. W. B. Morton III. Demonstrations concerned with plaster techniques were carried out in 1974 with the collaboration of Mrs. L. Sbordoni Mora.

— Archaeology : excavations were begun at the Forum of Caesar directed by Mr. M. Lamboglia with the agreement of the Head Office for the Monuments of Rome (Mr. C. Pietrangeli). An exercise on the problems of the conservation of the archaeological monuments of Largo Argentina was supervised by Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Gilyard-Beer.

— Photogrammetry : in 1974, surveys of the façade and the fountain in the atrium of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere. This work was directed by Mr. M. Carbonnell, assisted by Mr. S. Lucarelli.

The work of reorganizing the content of the course was begun in 1974 and is still underway; in 1975 we will benefit from the assistance of Mr. Bernard Feilden, as consulting architect. The reorganization consists firstly in presenting the various subjects and practical exercises in the most logical and instructive order and secondly in improving supervision and appreciation of practical work. In order to do this, in 1975, the participants were divided into three groups according to language : English, French and Italian.

For this course, as well as for the course on conservation of mural paintings below, a summary will be published in the next issue of this newsletter, for the academic year 1974-75, with a report on the academic year 1975-76.

#### Course on the Conservation of Mural Paintings

As in the past the course was organized in collaboration with the Istituto Centrale del Restauro in Rome, under the scientific guidance of Mr. Paolo Mora and Mrs. Laura Sbordoni Mora. It was held in English during the 1973-74 academic year, from 15 March - 10 July, 1974.

There were 17 participants from 15 different countries :

BEKELE Bisrat, Ethiopia  
 DE SILVA Rajendra H., Sri Lanka  
 DOLLA Jean-Pierre, France  
 DONNET Pierre, (observer), Switzerland  
 EL-AMIN Abdul R., Sudan  
 MACHEROPOULOS Irene, Greece  
 NAKAZAWA Ichiro, Japan  
 PIETARILA Pentti, Finland  
 PURI Dharam Pal, India

RICAURTE MIRANDA Leon, Ecuador  
 ROIG PICAZO Maria del Pilar, Spain  
 SARAFIAN ARMEN R., Lebanon  
 STOCKLI Peter, Switzerland  
 SZCZEPANSKI Krzysztof, Poland  
 THAERI DOLATABADI Bahram, Iran  
 TERAN Carlos, Ecuador  
 TRAMPEDACH Kirsten, Denmark

The teaching staff, as in the past, was composed of : Mrs. L. Sbordoni Mora, Mrs. L. Borelli-Vlad, Mrs. M. Tabasso, Miss C. Giacobini and Messrs. P. Mora, G. Urbani, G. Massari, O. P. Agrawal, G. Torraca, G. de Guichen and P. Philippot, with the assistance of Miss N. de Rothschild.

Following a well established tradition, three months of practical work on site took place at Sermoneta (near Rome), where participants benefitted from the hospitality of Princess Caetani at the Castle.

#### Course on the Fundamental Principles of Conservation

Even though conservation is becoming increasingly widely recognized as an interdisciplinary activity, it has become more and more evident that conditions for interdisciplinary collaboration are generally lacking. This is because the various specialists involved in conservation: restorers, laboratory specialists, historians, art historians or archaeologists, have all received very different kinds of training which were not orientated towards this collaboration, and they nearly always lack a common language, a basis of common knowledge and a harmonious approach to conservation.

It is for this reason that it seemed useful and even urgent to try to conceive a new type of teaching, open to these various categories of specialists to aim at giving them, in a rigorous but simple and practical form, the basic knowledge which is necessary on the one hand for the establishing of a basic language between them, and on the other hand for a scientific understanding of the reasons for the alterations of materials and interventions destined to combat them.

The concept of the course was thought out by Mr. G. Torraca after numerous consultations with international experts. The coordination of the syllabus and the gathering together of didactic material were ensured by Mr. Gaël de Guichen, assisted by Mr. Christopher Wheatley.

The teaching staff was chosen from among the most experienced specialists, those most capable of conveying the actual state of scientific knowledge about the structure, alteration processes and conservation of materials in simple understandable, interesting terms. They

have to remember that they are dealing with practical enthusiasts without university training, chemists unprepared for the specific problems of conservation and art historians/archaeologists responsible for collections but unfamiliar with technical problems.

This course was first organized in 1973 in an experimental form. In 1974, from January to April, it was taken up once more and developed with laboratory equipment and didactic material specially conceived for this purpose. The teaching staff was composed of Mr. G. Thomson (Climatology), Mr. A. France-Lanord (Metals), Mr. B. Mühlethaler (Wood), Mr. M. Mamillan (Stone) and Mr. G. Torracca (Structure of Materials, Theory of Solvents), with Miss C. Giacobini (Biology) and the Italian State Archives (Books). Each subject was dealt with thoroughly for two weeks by the professor concerned; mornings being reserved to theory and afternoons to practical work.

In 1975 the course was further developed and other experts invited: Mr. K. Hempel (Stone), Miss G. Musesumeci (Stone) and Mr. R.M. Organ (Metals).

For the first time the course was fully booked with 13 participants (restorers, chemists, archaeologists, conservators), all already employed in museums or in the field of conservation:

AL-SHAWI Nasser, Iraq  
ANTINUCCI Maria Grazia, Italy  
BRAENNE Jon, Norway  
BROEZE Ulli, Australia  
CASSANO Rita, Italy  
COURSIER Béatrice, France  
DAWURUNG Darap Bulus, Nigeria  
D'ALBIS Elisalex, U.S.A.  
GHULAM Mustapha, Pakistan  
GONZALES GUZMAN Raul, Panama  
OLOFSSON Elisabet, Sweden  
THAKOR Rashmikan, India  
WIKSTRÖM Lena, Finland

Other students following individual study programmes were accepted so that they could attend various lectures of particular interest.

The main problem is that of a language in common, i.e. English. To avoid errors in interpretation between 16 people with 14 different mother languages, a system has been adopted combining slides and cards on all the subjects taught and described. When this documentation is complete it will entail about 2,500 cards. This method has been conceived in as simple a way as possible to enable new information to be inserted. Thus it avoids standard documentation which one can find in a textbook.

During the discussion with students at the end of the 1975 course it was agreed that four months was an absolute minimum for them to benefit from the instruction. On the other hand, four months' absence was the maximum period of leave allowed by their museums.

Following this discussion, the programme for the 1976 course was drawn up. Some modifications in organization have been made and a period of three days has been introduced for the subject of textiles. Mr. J. Lodewijks has been so kind as to take over this subject.

Miss Lena Wikström, trainee in 1975, has agreed to act as assistant for 5 months in 1976.

#### **Autumn Course 1975 : Security, Climatization and Lighting in Museums**

Climate control and judicious lighting of displays as well as protection against fire and theft constitute today essential preventive measures for the responsible conservation of collections.

Many museum curators are called upon to establish conservation policy in this area without sufficient familiarity with current scientific information and techniques to enable them to make informed decisions.

A special subvention from the French government enabled the Centre to respond to this situation by preparing a refresher course which was held in Rome from September 29 to October 10, 1975, in the training laboratory of the Centre. Lessons and demonstrations were given by the following specialists: Messrs. M. Clamen, G. Sichilone, P. Wahl, J. Taubert, G. Thomson, F. Canovaro, W.A. Lindemann; and supported by a didactic exhibition especially designed for this purpose.

The course was given in French and English with simultaneous translation, and was open to museum curators in mid-career.

The program was coordinated by Gaël de Guichen, Scientific Training Assistant. There were 18 participants, of an average age of about 42 years:

ADNAN Elusta, Libya  
AGOSTONI Jorge, Mexico  
CABRERA José Maria, Spain  
CAMPIOLI Mario E., U.S.A.  
COSTA Georges, France  
DAHLE Kolbein, Norway  
DE HAAS Robert, Holland  
DEJEAN Xavier, France  
GIUMA Anag, Libya  
HUCHARD Viviane, France  
JOUAN Andrée, France  
LAFUENTE Jaime, Spain  
LAPEYRE Jean, France  
LUCARELLI Sergio, Italy

NIKKANEN Helena, Finland  
PELEGRIN Germaine, France  
THILL Gérard, Luxembourg  
WIIG Jan, Norway

The results of a questionnaire distributed at the end of the course clearly indicate that the participants were very much in favor of the repetition of such a course since it gave practical answers to the daily problems which curators must face.

The end of September seems to be a good period.

The number of participants should stay around 20 if the practical side of the course is to be kept or intensified.

The simultaneous translation lent interest to the course but the theoretical side, in contrast to the parts with demonstrations and practical work, suffered more in translation.

In response to demand, this course could be repeated in 1976. One could envision holding the course in English at Rome and in other languages in member nations upon request.

#### **Museum Conservation**

A two-year exhibition has been opened at the International Centre for Conservation in the reconstructed wing of the "North Courtyard" of San Michele. The theme is protection of art works against theft and fire, climatization, and lighting. A room is planned to show the practical application of protection systems. Only museum specialists are admitted. A catalogue in English, French and Italian accompanies the exhibition, realized thanks to a subsidy from the French Museums.

#### **Scholarships**

A large number of scholarships have been obtained in 1973 and 1974 for participants of the courses and those following individual programmes. They came chiefly from the following sources:

— UNESCO: ca. 160 months in 1973 and 1974. UNESCO and the Centre have been endeavouring to coordinate their selection methods of candidates suitable for the courses and scholarships. There is great need for collaboration here if candidates selected are to conform to the criteria laid down for the training.

— The Italian Government: over and above the scholarships administered in accordance with the bilateral agreements, the Italian Government has put at the direct disposal of the Centre 77 months of scholarships in 1973 and 67 months of scholarships in 1974. These scholarships were allocated to persons chosen by the Centre.

— The JDR 3rd Fund: put at the Centre's disposition, in 1973 and 1974,

a total sum of \$9,487, to cover the travel expenses, stay and studies of six young specialists from Asia, chosen in accordance with the Centre.

— The Ford Foundation: financed in 1973 the amount of \$4,981, to cover travel and living expenses in Rome of Mr. Naseem Asghar Ginai (Pakistan).

## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

For Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, the regional action of the Centre in 1974 has principally consisted of furthering the training of young specialists with responsibilities in conservation or training at the regional or national level.

### Africa

Mr. A.R.H. El Amin (Sudan), with scholarships from the Italian Government and the Centre, underwent a period of training at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro after having completed the Course on the Conservation of Mural Paintings. He also took part in work organized by the Istituto for the conservation of the frescoes of the Lower Basilica of Assisi and in the pilot mission organized by the Centre to Göreme (Turkey) in the autumn of 1974. This experience will stand him in good stead when he has to take on responsibilities as Chief of the Conservation Department concerned with the mural paintings of Sudan.

### Middle East

Mr. N. Al-Shawi, chemist at the Regional Centre for the Conservation of Cultural Property in the Arab States in Baghdad, after having completed the Course on the Fundamental Principles of Conservation in 1974, went to further his studies at the Institute of Archaeology of London University during the period April-June 1975. This study programme was organized by the Centre specifically to contribute to his preparation as a future monitor at the Regional Centre for Conservation in Arab States, set up by UNESCO in Baghdad.

### Latin America

Mr. P. Philippot went to Lima and Cuzco (Peru) under contract to UNESCO for the period 11-26 November in order to give advice on the preparation and programme for a training course for architect restorers, painting and sculpture restorers and archaeologists. The organization of this course is foreseen within the PER/39 project for the enhancement of monuments and archaeological sites in the Cuzco region.

### North America/Europe

A Polish-American Seminar was organized by the International Centre Committee of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation of the United States, with the collaboration of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Smithsonian Institution. The 25 participants stayed in Poland from 8-24 October, 1974, where they visited Warsaw, Gdansk and Crakow and had an opportunity to exchange opinions with their Polish colleagues. Mr. W.B. Morton III represented the Centre during this Seminar.

### Asia

Following the nomination of Mr. O. P. Agrawal as Honorary Representative of the Centre for Asia in New Delhi, a certain amount of the Centre's work has thus been delegated. In this way regional action is ensured and better adaptation to local necessities.

#### Activities of the Regional Office in Asia - 1974-1975

The 1973 General Assembly directed the Centre to have close contacts in the various regions of the world. As a consequence, a regional office for Asia was started during 1973 with Mr. O.P. Agrawal as the Honorary Regional Representative of the Centre. During 1974-75 the following activities were undertaken:

#### Missions

On his return from a visit to Rome, Mr. Agrawal visited the various museums in Ankara, including the Conservation Section of the Archaeological Museums, Ankara, and had meetings with the authorities of the Museums and of the Technical University, Ankara.

A visit was also paid to the newly established Conservation Laboratory of the National Research Centre for History of Art and Archaeology, Teheran. The plans of the Laboratory, its staff-structure, etc., were seen and its development discussed with the Iranian authorities. Most of the equipment that was suggested by Mr. Agrawal during his 1973 visit to Teheran had been obtained and was in position. The Laboratory has been functioning since June, 1974.

On the same trip, the Kabul Museum and the excavations at Hadda in Afghanistan were visited and notes were exchanged with the authorities concerned. The Afghanistan Government is now very seriously considering the question of establishing a Conservation Laboratory in Afghanistan.

On the invitation of the Bangladesh Government, the Honorary Regional Representative visited Dacca in July, 1974, to advise on the setting up of a

Central Conservation Laboratory for Dacca Museum. A list of the equipment needed was drawn up and a full plan for the growth of the Central Laboratory was given. Two of the staff members of the Laboratory were accepted for training at the Regional Conservation Training Centre in New Delhi. Both of them are undergoing training at present. Orders for purchase of equipment have been placed. The Dacca Museum is always in touch with the Regional Office for consultations.

The Honorary Regional Representative attended a regional conference held in Bangkok in August, 1974, to discuss the plans for the development and growth of museums, archaeological services and conservation departments in South and South East Asia. The conference was arranged on the initiative of the Ford Foundation. The rôle of international organizations in solving conservation problems was emphasized by Mr. Agrawal. The participants agreed that there ought to be closer coordination in the region.

#### Publications

The proceedings of the Asia Pacific Conference on Conservation of Cultural Property held in New Delhi in February, 1972 were published this year under the title "Conservation in the Tropics". The publication includes all the articles presented at the Conference and discussions held during the sessions. The publication is available from the International Centre for Conservation, Rome and from the Hon. Regional Representative, International Centre for Conservation c/o. National Museum, New Delhi.

All the articles on conservation published so far in UNESCO's Quarterly Review, MUSEUM, were abstracted and published in booklet form to be distributed to all those who are interested in the subject.

#### Documentation

Preparation of index cards on conservation articles appearing in various journals and books has been taken in hand. It is proposed to intensify this activity in future.

#### Attendance at conferences

Help was provided for some deserving persons to enable them to attend the Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Conservation of Cultural Property held in New Delhi in March, 1974.

A talk was delivered by Mr. Agrawal on "Conservation for Small Museums" at the All India Museums Conference held in Mathura in October, 1974.

Two experienced conservators from Thailand were invited, with the help of the Ford Foundation, to attend the Annual Conservation Conference held in New Delhi in April, 1975.

#### *Regional Seminars on Conservation and Museum Architecture*

A regional seminar on museum architecture was organized in New Delhi from March 6-8, 1975, in collaboration with the ICOM Regional Agency in Asia. Participants from Bangladesh, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand and India took part. Prof. Manfred Lehmbruck, who has recently completed a special issue of MUSEUM devoted to Museum Architecture, was present as an expert. His presence was therefore of great help in the meeting. Mrs. Renee Marcouse of ICOM's International Committee for Education and Cultural Action also contributed. The Indian experts were invited from various fields and included museologists, architects, engineers, electrical engineers, educators and conservators. A summary of proceedings was prepared and has been sent to various interested persons and institutes.

#### *Visiting scholars*

Help was given to several conservators and scholars visiting New Delhi for short periods.

#### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE CENTRE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES AND UNESCO**

Technical assistance provided by the Centre for member countries and UNESCO is usually in one of the following three forms:

- technical information provided by the Library and the Documentation Department;
- technical correspondence with the scientific personnel of the Centre;
- missions of specialists organized by or directly carried out by the scientific personnel of the Centre.

As its name indicates, the Centre is strictly a centre for conservation studies; as stated in its Statutes, it must help to raise the standard of conservation in the world. The nature of the technical assistance missions which the Centre is called upon to carry out do not involve the execution of large-scale restoration work. Besides, its budget would not permit this and anyway this is done by other international organizations. Also, in accordance with the policy defined by the Council, the technical assistance mis-

sions of the Centre are not only to carry out the work or to recruit specialized labour, but to help the authorities and specialists of member countries ask and resolve their problems according to necessity and latest methodological developments, to train or give further training to local specialists, thus helping to prepare them for their responsibilities.

The realization of such a policy for assistance which stresses the development of modern methodology and training for high level personnel, means that each mission has to be adequately prepared. The foremost condition on which the success of the mission depends is that the nature of the problem to be dealt with is clearly defined. This can, sometimes, involve a recognizance mission by a well qualified expert who can assess the exact state of the situation, list the problems, be they cultural, administrative, scientific or technical, and give details of what needs to be done so the most suitable expert can be chosen to fulfil the mission.

Generally speaking, the promotion of a modern methodology will imply more and more the need for a world wide pluridisciplinary approach to problems, which takes systematically into consideration all aspects of conservation, considered complementary and inseparable, namely:

- historical and critical study of the monument or object and respect for its authenticity;
- conservation of materials;
- conservation of architectonic structures;
- environment;
- policy for maintenance;
- policy for administration.

The carrying out of missions likely to answer the above needs can always be adapted to the case in question, often requiring another preliminary mission to find out what needs to be done, and then the subsequent mission of expert teams composed in such a way as to take the various aspects of the problems into balanced consideration.

In countries where local specialized organization is still insufficient, it is essential that professional contacts established during such missions be followed up afterwards, in order to contribute efficiently to the further training of personnel and specialists called upon to take on the responsibility for the work on site. The conception of pilot work sites, previously mentioned, (Newsletter No. 2, p. 6) should help to facilitate the choice, from among the local specialists attached to the work, of those suitable for advanced or complementary training under conditions to be defined in each case.

#### **The conservation of the rock churches of Göreme**

At the request of the Turkish Government, the Centre has been helping since 1971 in the development of a plan for the conservation of the rock churches of Cappadocia and their mural paintings.

After preliminary contact was made and a recognizance mission (1971) completed, the Centre organized in June 1972 a study mission in collaboration with the mural painting experts of the Istituto Centrale del Restauro in Rome. The mission enabled the conservation problems to be classified in three groups:

1) The problems of the mural paintings, concerning mainly the adherence of the plaster to the rock and the penetration of rainwater to the interior of the structures.

2) The structural problems of the rock masses in which the monolithic churches have been carved.

3) The alteration of the rock on the external surfaces.

The general conclusion was that the structural problems of the rock were more serious and that they required a thorough study of the local hydrogeological problems and mechanical forces to which the rock masses are subjected.

The Centre, therefore, informed UNESCO and the Turkish Government of the type of experts thought to be necessary and suggested that, at the same time as the structural study is carried out, some urgent work on the mural paintings themselves could be done by a mixed pilot work group made up of international experts and members of the Antiquities Department of Turkey.

This plan of action having been accepted by the authorities concerned, a pilot work site was organized in 1973 (See Newsletter No. 2, p. 6) and in 1974 (Team Leader: Mr. J.A. Vidal; Assistants: Miss. J. Burckhardt and Mr. A.R.H. El Amin); and finally in 1975 (Team supervisor: Prof. P. Mora; Team Leader: Mr. R. Bouquin; other participants: Miss I. Dangas, Mrs. T. Robouch). The average duration of these missions has been 45 days.

The participation of Turkish specialists in the work has ensured the gradual training of a local specialized team which should soon be capable of maintaining the paintings, above all during the period of work necessary for the consolidation of the structures.

In October 1974 UNESCO asked Mr. J. Granier (of the Soletanche Company) to go on a recognizance mission in view of preparing a plan of studies requesting the help of both the Turkish Government and international organizations in order to carry out large scale research, surveys and laboratory tests.



These studies should result in a plan for hydrogeological arrangements for the central basin of Göreme (the "Cirque") and a stabilization project for the structures and paintings of the churches El Mali and Barbara situated in a small hill in the middle of this basin.

The realization of this first project will open the way for a vast campaign to solve the problems of the conservation of the site as a whole.

Various missions for technical assistance have been organized by the Centre at the request of Member States and UNESCO. For instance:

#### **Federal Republic of Germany: Slevogthof at Neukastel/Pfalz**

At the request of the Kultusministerium der Rheinland-Pfalz, a mission of Mr. P. Mora, Chief Restorer at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro was organized to give the authorities in charge advice on the methods of ensuring the conservation of the mural paintings of the Slevogthof at Neukastel/Pfalz. The mission took place from May 13-15, 1973 and a written report was subsequently submitted. The expenses were covered by the Kultusministerium of Rheinland-Pfalz.

#### **Bulgaria**

Upon the invitation of the Bulgarian Government, Mr. Torraca took part in a meeting of international experts for the conservation of the rock sculpture known as the "Cavalier of Madara" (May 26 - June 2, 1974).

#### **Japan: Mural Paintings of the Takamatsuzuka Tumulus**

At the request of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Tokyo, and after preliminary discussions with the Japanese experts in charge, the Centre organized a mission of specialists to examine the state of the tumulus mural paintings of Takamatsuzuka near Nara, and to give advice for their conservation. The experts taking part in the mission were: Mr. P. Mora, Chief Restorer of the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, Mrs. L. Sbordoni Mora, restorer at the same Institute and Miss G. San Martino, restorer. The mission was carried out from October 10-20, 1973 and enabled a plan for the conservation of the paintings to be established in agreement with the Japanese specialists. The Japanese Government covered two thirds of the expenses of the mission and the Centre the remaining third.

#### **U.S.A.: Puerto Rico, Conservation of the Historic Centre of Manati**

The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico is organizing, with the financial

support of the National Endowment for the Arts — City Option Programmes — a study to preserve the historic town of Manati, which it is undertaking with the cooperation of the Puerto Rican Planning Board and the School of Planning and Architecture of the University of Puerto Rico. The Centre has brought an international dimension to this project by ensuring the participation, for four months, in the autumn of 1974, of a group of young architect restorers. This team was composed of Miss J.A. Tarr (USA) leader and official representative of the Centre, J. Bunze (Federal Republic of Germany), E. Prieto Vicioso (Bureau du Patrimoine Culturel du Président de la Rep. Dominicaine), L. Martinez (Central University of Venezuela, Caracas) and A. Flores (Faculty of Architecture of San Carlos University, Guatemala). The establishment of a conservation project for the old town has been warmly welcomed by the local people and has enabled the team to work closely with young experts of the region.

The Centre has also contributed to the project by organizing a short mission to Puerto Rico of Mr. A. Garcia Gil as expert consultant.

#### **San Antonio Missions**

At the invitation of the Texas State Park and Wild Life Department, Mr. Torraca visited the old Spanish Missions of San Antonio in 1973, and discussed with a team of local experts the causes of the weathering of the buildings, essentially linked to the very complex problems of humidity which demand a detailed report in the future.

A report was submitted on this subject to the American authorities. A project of a Seminar on the Conservation of Spanish Colonial Architecture in the U.S.A. was also discussed during this mission.

### **RESEARCH**

#### **Collaboration with ICOM**

The international committee of ICOM (Associate Member of the Centre), which is a study oriented organization known as the Committee for Conservation, meets every three years in plenary session. Traditionally the secretariat of the Centre helps in the organization of these conferences.

In 1975 this Assembly was held in Venice at the Fondazione Cini on the Island of San Giorgio. As in the past this consisted of, apart from the plenary sessions, meetings of about 25 Working Groups.

The ICOM Committee for Conservation benefited on this occasion from a subvention from the Italian Government and also financial backing from the Centre.

The members of the Working Groups, or, in other words, the active members of the Committee, presented papers on the various subjects of interest to them: mural paintings, underwater excavations, waterlogged wood, etc. These papers were duplicated and put at the disposal of all participants in Venice, after they had paid their registration fee.

They are now available from the International Centre for Conservation, in Rome.

#### **An Idea for a National Conservation Institute Without Walls**

**Robert M. Organ**

#### **Editor's Note**

*The circulation of information on conservation matters is a fundamental problem, especially for isolated conservators. Mr. R.M. Organ, Chief of the Conservation Analytical Laboratory of the Smithsonian Institution, has been taking an interest in the question in so far as it concerns the United States. We are happy to print here his observations which will certainly be of interest to those responsible for this matter in other countries.*

For some years there has been talk among conservators about a National Conservation Institute. Its function has usually been viewed as being of advantage to the speaker — usually a conservator but sometimes just someone who has had an interest in museum conservation. Its nature has never been very clear except that it should be a centre for research, that it should teach, and of course should have the answer to every conservator's individual problems!

The typical institute assumes a bureaucratic structure, its various functions being separated and assigned to different individuals. It is difficult to see how else it could be organized. As a result, users are likely to encounter difficulties in making useful contact — a problem found with most large organizations. There can be, of course, provision for a number of advisers on specific topics who could soften such contacts. Nevertheless, the sudden imposition of a national umbrella of specialized conservators over local organizations, who have struggled to do things for themselves over the years, could lead to conservators relaxing and leaving all of their responsibilities to the new national organization. Any new Institute is unlikely to be able to provide every desirable service for many years, with the immediate result that museum objects that ought to be the beneficiaries of a new scheme may actually be neglected for a few more years, years that may be critical for some of them.

The following is an alternative less-structured plan, designed to help those

who are already helping themselves. It is an expansion of testimony to a hearing of a special Senate sub-committee on the Arts and Humanities chaired by Senator Claiborne Pell. (a) Presented by one of six members of a panel of conservators who were invited to testify, this plan was developed to satisfy three principal considerations, as follows:

1. A truly national Conservation Institute should be concerned about all of the nation's conservation. This includes all varieties of object: excavated, collected, or created by Americans. The size of the U.S. and the catholicity of its interests is such that "all varieties" will include artifacts from pre-historic to contemporary, from primitive to space-age cultures, derived from sources world-wide. The following are a few examples: Indian arrow-heads, pre-Columbian gold, Rembrandt etchings, rare books, historic buildings, early aero-engines, the first transistor.

2. There is a grave shortage of conservators. A survey made by the University of Delaware and the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum in 1972 indicated that there are about two hundred (b) fully-qualified professional conservators employed in U.S. museums and that there will be openings for 370 more during the next decade (c). These figures do not include private restorers. Yet, at the time of the hearings the training schools together graduated only twenty per year (d). This in a nation of 200 million!

In actual fact, the shortage of personnel available to serve in an Institute having the scope considered desirable is even greater than appears at first sight. Probably, of the two hundred, one hundred are specialists in the treatment of paintings, thirty in paper, thirty in objects, about thirty in books and the remainder in textiles, furniture, etc. In fact, looking again at the seven examples given above, the number of conservators specializing in rare books, as distinct from merely old books, and in early aero-engines (these tend to be rebuilt - restored, not conserved), can be counted on the fingers. It is also quite certain that no school has taught any student conservator the rationale of conserving so individual an object as a transistor.

Clearly, an Institute must be interested in education.

3. Despite the shortage of conservators, an institute should be actively practising all of the procedures required for

the multitude of kinds of artifacts envisaged.

If an institute does not actually practice, it can neither evaluate the methods available — they are based on skill — nor can it improve upon them, except in a tentative unauthoritative theoretical manner, ill-becoming a national organization. Without practical expertise and steady development of methods an Institute can be no more than a reference library. Becoming outdated from time to time, it is unlikely to be used except by the learned. Practical conservators would probably avoid it as being irrelevant to their pressing current needs. In brief: only an Institute that commands technique can command respect.

To summarize: in order to be successful an Institute should be practising in every possible field of conservation, yet there is a grave shortage of competent conservators who are already in desperately needed practice. How dare we take them away and curtail total productivity during the six years or more needed to teach and mature their first student replacements?

In order to see the problem even more clearly, let us look briefly at the nature of a conservator. He may be viewed as an alloy of three abilities. First, he performs skilled practical work upon an artifact using methods that either he has learned and practised to perfection or that he has developed himself with guidance from the data, writings or hearsay of other people. The work of development is the research content of treatment.

Second, he is to some degree a materials scientist. He has learned to recognise particular materials that occur in artifacts and he knows methods of confirming his recognition. He understands the nature of the reactions with their environment that have resulted in their present condition. He knows what treatments can be applied to change that condition deliberately and how to minimise change that is unwanted in the decades to come. In short, he understands what corrective changes are both possible and practicable. He can also recognize that sometimes he does not know: that detailed examination or more data is needed before treatment can begin.

Third, he has a curatorial concern deriving from art-historical or technology-historical or archaeological perspective. This ability enables him to understand the particular significance of the artifact and the attitude of a collector/curator towards it. It is not one of the easiest of abilities to acquire, because one particular artifact may assume different significances in different circumstances. For example, a manuscript of little literary and no calligraphic merit may become valuable as the only firmly-dated representative of the handwriting of an historical period. Alternatively,

it could be priceless to the museum of his hometown as the writing of a senator. This third ability enables selection of the one of several possible and practicable treatments that is aesthetically permissible.

Richard Buck names these three respectively: the practical conservator, the technical conservator, and the administrative conservator, and sees the last as the keystone position (e).

It should not be assumed that a conservator invariably uses these abilities in equal proportions, one third of each, although this is very likely to happen in a small museum. Indeed, for administrative convenience, there he may even hold a title such as "curator of prints" that only the literal-minded would interpret as a conservator ("curator" from the Latin *curatus*, one having a charge or care). In a small museum the conservator will have to provide all of the three related functions.

On the other hand, in a large museum he may find that an analytical laboratory already exists or that one is easily accessible. At the least, he may find scientists serving as curators of technological artifacts who are prepared to give advice, to point to the literature containing research data, and perhaps even to do simple analyses occasionally. In such a situation the conservator need not act regularly as a scientist. Nevertheless, he will still retain the instinct that serves to warn him when a non-conservator scientist has unwittingly given him a wrong result that might cause some catastrophic mistreatment.

In a large museum the conservator will also certainly find many art-historians or technology-historians or archaeologists, each being the curator of the particular collection that is raw material serving his own speciality. These curators will be able to assume almost all of the conservator's own curatorial responsibilities. Yet not quite all: he must still use his own informed judgement at crucial moments in contact with the artifact itself.

The fact that a conservator uses skills in several different disciplines and that the emphasis upon each varies with his working situation necessitates a particularly wide range of initial education. This the schools provide during a three or four year course. But changing situations make most desirable some additional method of up-dating his knowledge and skills in a specific narrow field, whenever he discovers a need. The specification for an Institute should make allowance for this.

Of the three abilities, practical, scientific, curatorial, all essential to the

(a) Joint Hearings before the Special Sub Committee on Art and Humanities, 93rd Congress, on Museum Services, S.796 and S.2137 of July 18 and 19, 1973, pp 508 et al to 530. U.S. Government Printing Office.

(b) Sheldon Keck, Joint Hearings, *ibid*, p 486.

(c) Report on The Conference on the Training of Conservators, held at Winterthur Museum June 15-16, 1973, Appendix B, p 4, also printed in Joint Hearings, *ibid*, pp 541 to 550.

(d) Joint Hearings, *ibid*, p 553.

(e) Statement by Richard D. Buck to Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation held at Kansas City, May 31 to June 2, 1973.

conservator's overall function, only the practical one — time spent in contact with the object — is directly productive of treated artifacts. An Institute should therefore be organized to maximise contact of skilled conservators with deteriorating artifacts. Practise can scarcely fail to result in increasing personal competence. If this increasing skill can be transferred to others rapidly then the whole field will benefit and the Institute will be performing its educational task. Here it may be remarked that a flood of descriptive literature alone will not serve: reading it all in the hope of finding a few pearls of wisdom will divert effort from the practical tasks that develop the wisdom.

The concepts described above lead to the following desiderata for an Institute.

1. Let the conservator continue in his present place of work. Here he will be close to his collections, without impediment of separation, without added risk to the artifacts caused by transportation. Here he will enjoy the support of the curators of collections and possibly of conservation-scientists. He will be working on the objects that his Director most urgently needs. His Director will continue in a position to understand the problems of his work. He will continue to write his reports on the deterioration of particular artifacts, on the causes discovered, on his corrective treatment, and he will continue to learn by so doing.

2. Let the Institute find ways to strengthen his work: first, by making apparent his value to his museum and community; second, by getting for him more space and perhaps even daylight — many conservators can find space only in a basement or garage — (this second strengthener will become easier when the first has been achieved); and third, by making possible some provision of space and facilities for an occasional apprentice-helper.

3. Let the Institute be permitted, and have enough skilled personnel to accomplish painlessly, a frequent "look over the conservator's shoulder" with a camera, in order to record specific elements of his procedure for wider educational use.

4. Then register him as an Institute-Conservator, or as an Institute Conservation-Scientist, with the agreement of his museum. A certificate of this registration will serve as one indication of the importance of his calling.

5. Let the Institute place in his laboratory or shop a data-terminal. This might initially be a facsimile machine ('telefax') but should ultimately be a TV monitor and teletype keyboard. Such a terminal in operation will serve as further tangible evidence of his status in the community.

6. As an Institute-person he will be expected to transmit each of his completed illustrated reports via his terminal to the Institute's data-bank. These reports on work done to artifacts are already required by his professional Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, to which he must subscribe as a condition of membership in the American Institute for Conservation (f). The report to the data-bank will contain adequate technical data, his own name and the date, but confidential or sensitive non-technical information should have been deleted. At the data-bank the report will be filed complete and an abstract will be prepared that relates the materials and problems of the artifact to the procedures and formulas that he used to solve them. He will be required to verify the accuracy and sufficiency of the abstract and to sign it, partly as a precaution against insertion of false data into the system.

The Institute should pay for this report. A non-contentious, almost automatic, method of assessing the fee would relate it to the length of the agreed abstract. Payment would increase the probability that adequate time could be given to proper reporting, the posterity-serving work that at present tends to be neglected under pressure of events. Payment would also increase the sympathy of money-starved museum administration for conservation.

7. The Institute will expect that, when faced with a new problem of examination or treatment or of choosing materials, the conservator initially will call the data-bank for the data and writings of other people that he now searches out for himself. Then he will be presented with a range of answers from which to select appropriate abstracts which in turn will lead him to those particular full reports that most nearly answer his questions. Any difficulties found in these can be resolved by direct reference to their author, who will be identified in them. In his own resulting report the user will be expected to make a special point of any difficulties encountered in using the data-bank's presentation. This 'feedback' will be used to keep the stored data in tested condition.

At first the data-bank will not satisfy his needs entirely. In fact, there will always be some areas of particular subjects that will lack definitive data. Then the conservator or conservation-scientist will proceed as now and will develop his own solutions. The resulting report entered into the bank will be a first and will save his and others' time when a similar problem arises subsequently.

8. Would-be students and even members of the public might eventually be allowed to interrogate the data-bank. Since these would not be bound in any treatment that they applied by the Code of Ethics, they could be restricted to answers expressed in generalities, if this were to be considered desirable in order to limit risk of misapplication to valuable objects. However, the first line of defence against mistreatment is the responsible curator/collector in regular contact with his own collection: Richard Buck's 'keystone' position (e). Indeed, there would be value in having the curator perform his own interrogation of the bank, using his own form of question, in order to discover any 'second opinion' that might exist.

9. An interrogator who expressed an interest in some specific procedure of treatment could be provided with a preliminary general survey through a tape-slide sequence, initially sent by mail but at a later stage of development appearing in colour on the monitor-screen of the terminal. Slides would be supplemented at the next higher level of instruction by cinema films. At these levels of instruction, derived from the Institute's 'camera-over-the-shoulder', interrogators will be self-taught. They will not use the valuable time of a conservator once the initial sequence has been recorded.

10. Anyone requiring specific expertise — perhaps a general conservator faced by a new problem — could introduce himself to the various methods available by use of the audio-visuals, studied as often as needed. Then, if he found himself unable to duplicate the procedures he could gain practical skill by privately arranged brief apprenticeships with the Institute-persons concerned. The data-bank would indicate who these were, wherever they might work. Because the thorough preliminary audio-visual orientation would have lessened the conservator — or conservation-scientist — time necessary for personal teaching it is likely that even a busy person would be willing to accept a short-term apprentice in a specific expertise.

11. The conservation schools would naturally wish to be associated with an Institute that could keep them up to date with the ways of the professional in the field so effortlessly, leaving them more time for research and to interact with their students educatively.

12. Scientists carrying out analyses of the materials of museum objects, and ageing tests of materials proposed for long-term contact with them, might also feed the data-bank, even at preliminary stages of their work. Interrogation might discover leads to the most profitable lines of investigation. The computer could also be programmed to bring to their attention certain agreed

(f) Murray Pease Report, IIC-AG, May 1968, pp 55-68. Also printed in Joint Hearings, *ibid*, pp 493 to 505.

standards of presentation, such as that proposed by the ICOM Committee for Conservation, for meaningful analysis of metals (g).

Adoption of this plan would result in several gains for conservators generally, as follows.

Individual conservators would acquire greater importance in the eyes of their Directors and museum administrators, a condition currently recognised as necessary to adequate funding and support.

Local conservation would not be hindered by sudden loss of its personnel to become faculty of a central Institute.

Teaching at introductory and beginning levels would become largely self-teaching: not needing skilled conservators, many of whom at present decline apprentices because they have no time free to teach. Advanced training would not have to await organization of some special seminar. It could be obtained almost at need if the specific subject were being practised already somewhere in the Institute.

Provision of data on demand would strengthen practical work more effectively than anything else, simply by speeding up the preliminary processes. Disparities between statements would come to light immediately and would provide research topics for the schools of current value to the profession.

The quality of methods available would improve as rapidly as they were revised by use and reporting. At present reports only surface at Annual Meetings and they are the product of individuals, seldom a consensus of skills.

Vexatious disputes about priorities need not arise when novelties are reported automatically immediately the work has been done.

In place of the corridors in an Institute building, through which people perpetually hasten to consult with (and hinder the work of!) one another, there would be orderly flows of electrons linking far-separated laboratories only at time of need. Then, skilled conservators, already prepared with a knowledge of others' habits of thought and practice, could meet really meaningfully, to gain 'hearsay' that would be authoritative.

Every member of the Institute — large institution, regional laboratory, school, museum, and private restorer — would be an equal contributor, whether located in the District of Columbia, Ohio, California, or Hawaii — a true democracy and truly national.

The foregoing ideas have evolved naturally from procedures already in use or developing in the Conservation-Analytical Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution. The problems faced by C.A.L. since its foundation have been almost identical with those of any national conservation Institute, namely: an immense number (tens of millions) of artifacts in enormous variety; very few professional conservators on staff — and these scattered among various administrations — whose output could be enhanced and their tribulations eased if only essential data could be brought to them without need for special research. Already, C.A.L.'s own full reports are filed with a summary. At present these are accessible via an optical-coincidence indexing system that permits selection by material or by method of treatment or otherwise. They all identify

author(s) and date. A beginning has been made in the use of a computer system to give more flexibility, and some summaries of like content have already been collated to concentrate the data for staff members in search of methods and of the restrictions upon their use. These reports contain procedures carefully selected to suit particular problems. When the time arrives that their past reports have become a normal and natural resource to C.A.L. staff, then we shall have a first partial working model, on a small scale, of the Institute described above.

The general concept is not limited to the U.S. Since telefax machines operate over simple telephone lines — they are in regular use by newspapers — there should be few technical problems in using it anywhere. Properly used it might do much to bridge the communication gap between conservation-scientists and conservators that has been reported from several areas over the years.

Conservation-Analytical Laboratory  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

September 1973  
Revised April 1975

[*Editor's Note:* This third issue of the International Centre for Conservation Newsletter was compiled and edited by the Centre, and all comments and requests for additional information should be directed to: The International Centre for Conservation, 13 via di San Michele, 00153 Rome, Italy.]

**The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property, based in Rome, is looking for higher scientific staff specialized in the conservation of cultural property.**

#### QUALIFICATIONS REQUESTED:

1. Practical experience of 5 to 10 years in one of the following fields of conservation of cultural property:
  - Architecture (as architect or engineer)
    - Statics
    - Humidity in buildings
    - Building materials
  - Conservation of museum objects (as chemist or physicist)
  - Climatology in museums and buildings.
2. Knowledge of at least two languages, one of which must be English or French. Knowledge of Italian is desirable.
3. Didactic capacities.
4. Ready to undertake missions abroad.

To be fixed from P2 to P4 of the FAO salary tables, according to qualifications. Salary rates for a single person are at present:

#### SALARY:

P2/1:	\$14,517	Free of taxes in Italy
P4/1:	\$21,101	

Applications with curriculum vitae, references and special mention of practical experience should be sent to:

The Director  
International Centre for Conservation  
Via di San Michele 13  
00153 Rome

before 15 April, 1976.